

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2024, 6:00 P.M.

Those attending in person: Mike Hogan, Fred Ducharme, Karen Larsen, R. D. Eno, Skip Bothfeld, Jeanne Johnson, Betty Ritter, Frank Kampf, Dean Deasy, Jenn Miner, Ruth Goodrich, Dana Glazier, Sandy Pond, Kris Schmitt, Glenn Goodrich, Ruth Goodrich, Marcy Martin, Maria Achionne, Irving Robbins, Cedric Alexander; via Zoom: Brittany Butler, Ben Vitale, Gary Gulka, Deborah Peterson, Will Ameden, Daniel Peterson, Stephen Hogan, Dean Deasy, Rodger Sheldon, Rory Thibault, Alisson Hogan

1. Call Meeting to Order – the meeting was called to order by Mike Hogan at 6:00 p.m.
2. Approve Agenda - a motion was made by Fred with a second by Karen. RD will add something other business, and Mike would like to add emergency management plan. Motion carried with the additions.
3. Approval of Minutes from April 2, 2024 Selectboard Meeting – RD minor Marie is Maria, Item 10 – job search – national registry website, Karen – 4b. added: and continues to erode, condemnation and nothing can be built on there again, 5 – waiting for culverts are all undersized, motion carried with corrections.
4. Public Comment – Maria, is there a reason why we do not begin with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mike stated that each Board has its choice and we just never had done this but is something to consider for the future.
5. Trails Committee: Discussion of Old Center of Town and Parking Improvements, along with the other the two other parking areas for trails. Mike and RD was with Dana, where we formally have a trail up to the Old Center Road. Mike mentioned that Steve Bothfeld was with them talked with them and we would put some gravel and some ditching and he agreed. RD moved that we would do a RFP for all three sections with a second by Mike. Any discussion–Karen was concerned about the Town Forest and if there needs to be any improvements. We have a right of way through Shawn Brooks property and at the very end improve parking for 3 vehicles. We are hoping not to do any improvements on the road as that is not ours. It is only open during the summer months because of winter weather. Shawn has already given permission. As of right now, we do not have access for year around. Dana was wondering if the road crew could clean up the area – old center road to Danville Hill. We are hoping to open it on May 29. Motion carried.
6. Mowing Contract Considerations – Cedric discussed most of the 4 ½ acres could be bush-hogged possibly once in October, or may not need it. Mowing contract would be reduced. Melvin said that a portion of the area has been hayed. The bank should be mowed either weekly or bi-weekly and the rest left fowl. Cedric said he has no recommendation for the Pavilion area. Gary said the main focus would be by the water tanks. Roadway should be mowed and out front and up to the reservoir be cleared. It would be helpful to have a map, which area to mow, hayed, and bush-hogged. Cedric mentioned that Fred Pike had mowed the part that was hayed. Cedric wondered if the town crew work could work on the on the bush-hogging. Mike stated that if they had time as they are quite busy this summer.
7. Emergency Services – RD created a new motion: Cabot Ambulance municipal department as part of the municipality under the Selectboard, (the resolution is attached). *(Please refer to the attachment or listen to the audio.)* Mike made a point of order – and made a motion to postpone this resolution – it wasn't warned publicly, he believes it should be warned. RD stated that it was duly warned under emergency services. *(The rest of the conversation could be heard on the audio on Cabotvt.us.)* We will then have it on the agenda for May 7.
8. FEMA Update – Mike we have a new person working with FEMA and not a lot of timeliness. We have a new contact person and should have a meeting with a month. Michelle is still working with projects. Temporary fire station is open and all the trucks are there. Open house within a few weeks. Dean – FEMA is moving along. Basketball Court will be started court in a few weeks and Dean informed the Rec committee and they are quite pleased. Mike is working with Clark Sawmill Dam and Friends of Winooski. We are only in phase 1 of site inspection before we take acquisition of the property and clean up.
9. Post Office Update – RD noted that it his understanding that asbestos will begin on April 29. He has no information about selecting a contractor. He will be checking back with Postal Realty and keep the Board informed.
10. Temporary Firehouse Update – this was covered under Item 8.
11. Water and Wastewater
 - a. Update from Rodger Sheldon, H2O Innovations and discussed the WW Plant – he had a member that has dealt with membrane filtration and found a number of vacuum leaks and issues with pumps. He will have report next week. Pumps are all weak, and Fred will get some more information. He said the pumps should be replaced ASAP. We lose vacuum and controls are leaking and should replace two or three pumps and have a spare. They

are being rebuilt but it could be six months and we don't have the time. Need two pumps right off and they do not make them anymore would have to have something specially designed. We are just buying time. We are not processing waste but need to have it pumped off and take away. There is nothing on the shelf anywhere and they are specific to our plant. There is one in NY and NH. Mike – what would it cost to get the pumps up and running? Rodger does not have the ball park until he starts pricing. If we were to purchase a permeate system and retrofit to the skid, put them on the new one we might be in better shape. Fred recommends that we have one extra pump on the shelf. Fred said that he would build a skid those pumps would fit right into what we have right there. Recommends a whole new skid once we can have some in the meantime. There is more technology in the new skids and narrow down problems quickly. Gave insight how to troubleshoot. Karen – what is the next step – Fred said we should get 2-3 pumps. Rodger will get prices together. A motion was made to maintain the plant by resolution to general maintenance solution, and authorize for Rodger in consultation with Fred, with a second by Fred. Motion carried.

- b. Other Business – RD wanted to know if we have a schematic – the toilet in the church blocked up again. He snaked and brought up gravel. Sewer line runs up the store side, it is possible he could look at the video. We did a camera about a month ago all the way to the main. Line from the church does not connect to the main line. Fred – the guy who did the work on the rec field could find out where to go. Wayne Graham was the man who did the camera work. If there is a break under the church or on the road we could have a problem. Fred reminded RD that up to the main is the homeowner's responsibility.

12. Town Clerks Office

- a. Orders – they have been signed. Thank you.
- b. Update from Eclipse-debrief – Betty and Karen worked together. It went very smooth with no problems and it was terrific. The sheriff even issued a few tickets!
- c. Other business – There was no other business.

13. Other Business – advertising for treasures position – Mike has a couple of people that are interested in the position. We will plan to do interviews on May 7 in executive session.

RD – CV Fiber – they are not in Cabot yet. Also, CV Fiber will merge with NEK Broadband. RD informed that they did not store anything at the wastewater area.

Emergency Management plan is due May 1 – Mike recommended that Jenn continue to be the EMD. RD moved that we appoint EMD with a second by Fred. Motion carried.

A motion with made by Mike to approve the Emergency Plan with the changes that need to be made, with a second by RD. Motion carried.

14. Motion to Adjourn – A motion was made by Fred with a second by Skip. Motion carried and we adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Ritter, Cabot Town Clerk/Treasurer

Attachment: Resolution for Cabot Ambulance

RESOLUTION TO CREATE A CABOT AMBULANCE DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS Ambulance service within the Town of Cabot is universally acknowledged to be vital to the public welfare;

WHEREAS The Cabot Emergency Ambulance Service (CEAS), a private corporation, has provided fast and reliable service to the Town of Cabot for fifty years;

WHEREAS for many years the CEAS has shared headquarters and equipment housing at the Cabot Municipal Fire Station with the Cabot Volunteer Fire Department (CFD), a department of the Cabot municipal government;

WHEREAS as a consequence of the Flood of July, 2023, the Fire Station has been condemned and is no longer suitable for occupancy;

WHEREAS the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will subsidize a temporary Public Safety structure and, subsequently, a permanent Public Safety Building at 75%-90% of cost, a significant savings for taxpayers and a great benefit to the municipality;

WHEREAS FEMA regulations restrict occupancy of either aforementioned structure to municipal entities and prohibit occupancy by a private service entity, thereby barring the CEAS from sharing these FEMA-funded facilities with the CFD;

WHEREAS it has been deemed to be in the public interest of the people of Cabot that, in order that an ambulance and emergency medical service be housed in these centrally located FEMA-funded facilities, the CEAS should cease to be a private corporation and become a department of the municipality;

THEREFOR THE CABOT SELECTBOARD HEREBY RESOLVES TO CREATE THE CABOT AMBULANCE DEPARTMENT (CAD) AS A DEPARTMENT OF THE CABOT MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT, ACCOUNTABLE TO THE CABOT SELECTBOARD:

1. subject to the same fiscal control as other branches of municipal government;
2. funded as part of the annual municipal budget;
3. housed in the temporary or permanent Public Safety Building;
4. its organizational structure, rules of procedure and bylaws to be devised in co-operation with the Selectboard and subject to the approval of the Selectboard;
5. with all relevant licenses required to operate an ambulance and/or emergency medical service to be obtained in the name of and retained by, or transferred to the Town of Cabot;
6. its leadership to be recognized by the Selectboard as independent of the leadership of the CFD;
7. liabilities carried over from CEAS to be assumed by the Town of Cabot;

SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

1. that the membership of the CEAS accept the terms of this resolution and agree to dissolve the CEAS and transfer all operations and licensure to the CAD at a time and in a manner to be determined by the Selectboard in consultation with the CEAS but no later than July 1, 2025; and that the CEAS members agree to serve as members of the CAD; and that the leadership of the CEAS shall hereafter report regularly to the Selectboard about the progress of obtaining and/or transferring such licensure;

2. that no further action shall be taken by the leadership or membership of the CEAS respecting its commitment to dissolve itself and become the CAD, other than such further action as legal counsel may advise or federal or state laws or regulations may require to effect its dissolution;
3. that all the books and accounts and audits of the CEAS, for all years that they exist, shall be made available to the Selectboard and shall become the property of the CAD upon the dissolution of the CEAS; that all current cash and material assets of the CEAS be preserved, with no disbursements made except to cover ordinary operating expenses; that all material assets of CEAS shall be transferred to the CAD upon the dissolution of the CEAS; but that cash assets of the CEAS on hand at the time of dissolution may be donated by the CEAS, at its discretion, to a non-profit organization established for the sole benefit of the CAD.